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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

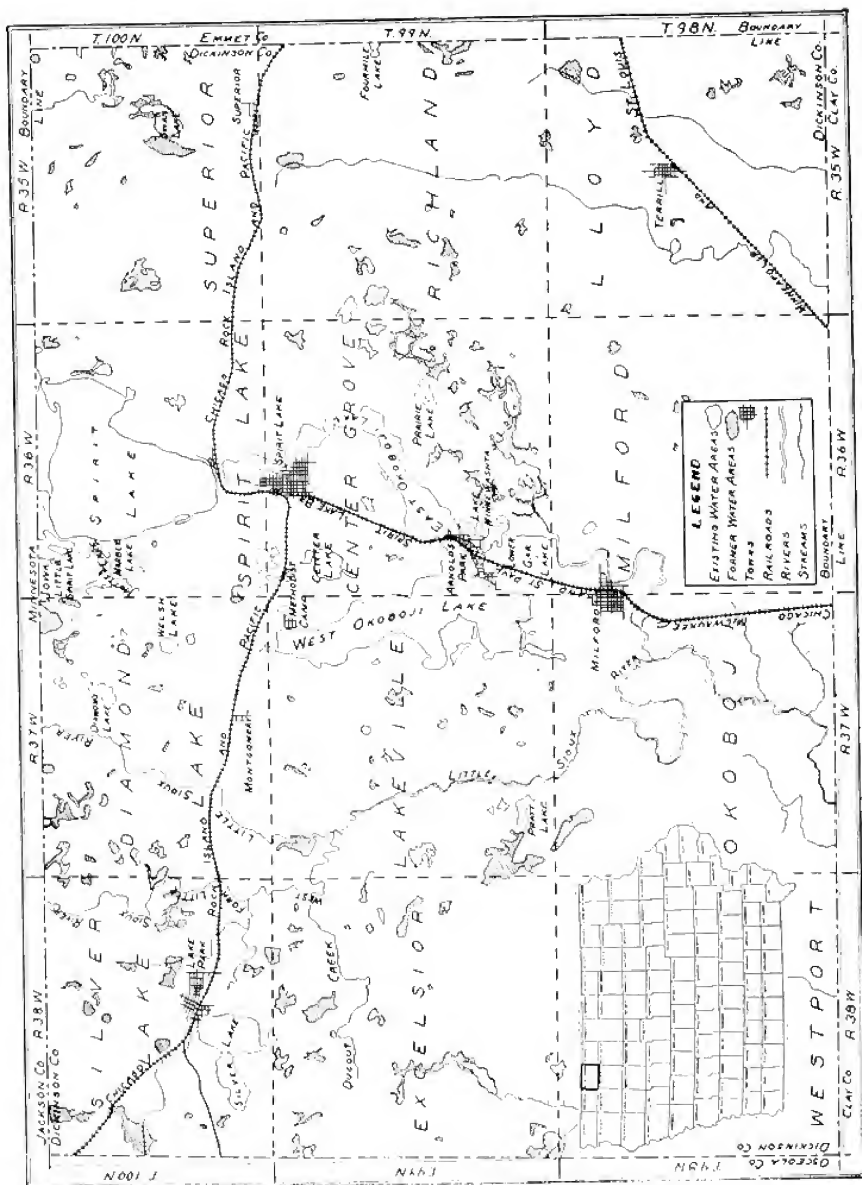
The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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DICKINSON COUNTY, IOWA

It is in this interesting region that our 1939 convention and field trip are to be held. The shaded areas on the map show ponds and lakes over ten acres in size that have been drained since 1800. Published through courtesy of the Collegiate Press, Inc., Ames, Iowa.

SPIRIT LAKE, THE SCENE OF OUR
1939 CONVENTION

By F. L. R. ROBERTS, M.D.



Geologically, the Iowa Great Lakes region is one of the most interesting parts of the state. Spirit Lake is near the edge of the area covered by the Des Moines lobe of the last or Wisconsin glacier. A few miles to the west one may find country in which the topography is typical Kansan glacial till. Around the lakes the country is knobby and rolling; kames, eskers and other features of recent glaciation are made out with ease. The fields were once strewn with glacial boulders, but most of these have been cleared away and used for buildings or left in piles along the edges of the fields. When the glacier retreated, hills were

left in seemingly indiscriminate fashion, with depressions between which formed lakes, ponds, and sloughs.

In Dickinson County there are more than a dozen lakes. Spirit Lake, the largest in Iowa, is about three and one-half miles across at the widest place and about four miles long. West Okoboji is narrower but is about five miles long. Its waters are unusually blue and clear. Only a few lakes in America are as deep as West Okoboji. Besides these, there are East Okoboji, Upper and lower Gar, Minnewashta, Hottes, Marble, Sunken, Welsh, Center, Silver, Diamond, Lilly, Prairie, Swan, Rush, and Little Spirit Lakes (see accompanying map). Each of these has its own characteristics, offering a variety of bird habitats. There are also many permanent ponds and sloughs, and in wet years there are literally hundreds of small ponds, many of which dry up during the summer. Last year the water was higher than it has been for a number of years. Unless we have heavy rains, some of the shore that was under water last year will be exposed this spring, making ideal feeding grounds for shore birds.

This territory is not only farther north but is also higher than the rest of the state. Consequently, the season is a little later. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union convention has been set for Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13, hoping to catch the peak of the warbler migration and an abundance of shore birds and water birds as well. Some of our members who made a census for the U. S. Biological Survey reported this region to be the best in the state for water birds and shore birds. Ducks, geese, grebes, gulls, terns and shore birds are here in abundance. Three or four hundred White Pelicans are usually here until about the first of June. Double-crested Cormorants are fairly common migrants. For several years a large colony of Black-crowned Night Herons has nested just north of Spirit Lake, and these should be on hand for the convention.

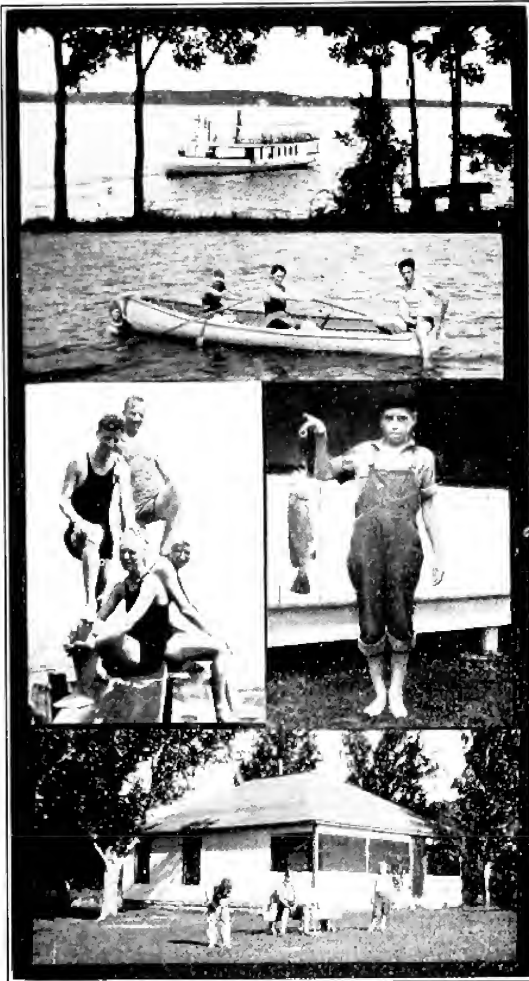
Practically all our Meadowlarks are the western species. We have fewer hawks and owls than the eastern part of the state, the Marsh Hawk being the most abundant hawk. Arkansas Kingbirds are almost as common as the eastern form. Orchard Orioles are more common

than farther east. Quail are rather scarce; there are some Prairie Chickens; Ring-necked Pheasants and Hungarian Partridges are abundant. No complete list of the birds of this region has been published, but one could be compiled by consulting DuMont's 'A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa' (Univ. of Ia. Studies in Nat. Hist., XV, 1933, pp. 1-171) and Stephens' 'The Summer Birds of the Lake Okoboji Region of Iowa' (Univ. of Ia. Studies in Nat. Hist., XVII, 1938, pp. 277-340).

The region is admirably suited to all types of outdoor activities. The fishing season opens on May 15. Schools and stores usually

close, for nearly everyone goes fishing on "Fish Day." But if you plan to stay for the fishing, be sure to engage your boat early. Every boat-house on the lakes has all its boats reserved weeks before the eventful day. The middle of May is early for swimming, but a few are always in before that time.

Arnolds Park is so well known as an amusement park that it needs no description. Dance halls, skating rinks, roller coasters, shooting galleries, and all the other usual attractions are found at the Park. Saddle horses and bicycles may be rented at several places on the lake. Three rolling golf courses are available. There are approximately 3,500 cottages around the lakes, ranging from overnight cabins to palatial mansions. The Indian



"THE REGION IS ADMIRABLY SUITED TO ALL TYPES OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES"

massacre of 1857 had its beginning near the site of Arnolds Park; a monument at this place commemorates the historical event. Templar

Park has the Knights Templar Home and is the scene of many meetings of the Masonic Lodge.

There are five state parks on the lakes, three of them with beautiful stone shelter houses. The one at Gull Point is unusually attractive and well equipped. Many motor and sail boats are on the lakes and one steamer still plies the waters of West Okoboji.

The Lakeside Laboratory, a branch of the State University of Iowa is housed in a dozen or so lovely stone buildings on the shore of West Okoboji. This is one of the best equipped and most famous of the field stations for biological research in the world. It was placed here because of the abundance of wild life of the type that lives in and about fresh water; but the flowers and animals of the surrounding prairie are studied as well.

One of the state fish hatcheries is located at Orleans, between Spirit and East Okoboji Lakes. The young pike will be hatching by the hundreds at convention time—a worthwhile sight.

The Antlers Hotel, our convention headquarters, compares favorably with hotels in much larger places and is far above the average for towns the size of Spirit Lake. The food in its dining room is reasonably priced and not to be excelled in quality. The management will probably be able to care for all who come to the convention; but if you plan to stay for Fish Day, be sure to engage a room early.

Plans for our convention program on May 12-13 are not fully completed. As usual, Friday will be taken up with lectures and bird papers. At least two illustrated talks of exceptional interest are tentatively planned. Several speakers will give general-interest talks on local birds, and there will be reports of interesting research studies. The program committee will provide a clock, and speakers will be notified when their allotted time is up. Friday evening there will be a banquet and motion pictures. We are glad to announce that the speaker will be Walter W. Bennett, of Los Angeles, California, who will return to Iowa for the convention. Mr. Bennett's subject will be "Mountain Bird Life," and those who have heard our former President on other occasions, know that in him we shall have a speaker of unquestioned ability.

Saturday forenoon will be devoted to field trips. There is so much good territory, there will probably be more than the usual number of divisions. Various trips will be suited to different degrees of ability to hike.

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

	(Attendance registered)	(Bird list of field trip)	(President elected)
1. 1923—Ames, Feb. 23*	"about 50"	No trip	Walter M. Rosen
2. 1924—Ames, March 8	"about 50"	No trip	Walter M. Rosen
3. 1925—Ames, Feb. 20-21	"well attended"	No trip	Walter M. Rosen
4. 1926—Atlantic, May 14-15	"about 40"	88	Walter M. Rosen
5. 1927—Des Moines, Apr. 30-May 1	No record	79	Arthur J. Palas
6. 1928—Ames, May 11-12	No record	94	Arthur J. Palas
7. 1929—Sioux City, May 10-11	92	109	Walter W. Bennett
8. 1930—Omaha, Nebr., May 14-17	92	106	Walter W. Bennett
9. 1931—Cedar Rapids, May 8-9	36**	65	Dr. F. L. R. Roberts
10. 1932—Des Moines, May 13-14	100	101	Dr. F. L. R. Roberts
11. 1933—Fairfield, May 5-6	74	120	Dr. G. O. Hendrickson
12. 1934—Ames, May 18-19	62	127	Dr. G. O. Hendrickson
13. 1935—Sioux City, May 10-11-12	135	101	Dr. G. O. Hendrickson
14. 1936—Fairfield, May 8-9	94	126	Myrle L. Jones
15. 1937—Cedar Falls, May 7-8	80	150	Myrle L. Jones
16. 1938—Cedar Rapids, May 6-7	120	115	O. S. Thomas
17. 1939—Spirit Lake, May 12-13			

*Organization meeting.

**Incomplete.

THE 1938 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN IOWA

We present the 1938 Christmas bird census in the tabulated form which was adopted in our magazine last year. We thank those members who sent in their lists for this purpose. Four censuses were taken from the supplement (pp.41-42) in the February, 1939, issue of 'Bird-Lore.' A careful study of the census table will reveal some interesting facts. There are various species of summer residents or transients. Their presence here at this season is no doubt to be accounted for by the very mild winter in Iowa and lack of deep snows. Meadowlarks and Mourning Doves, though not conspicuous on the census lists, have apparently remained in Iowa in quite large numbers, according to reports in newspapers during the winter of 1938-39. The Magpie occurs on only one list. The variety of hawks this year is an interesting feature. The Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rusty Blackbird and Bronzed Grackle were seen only in northeastern Iowa. The Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Wilson's Snipe, Bluebird and Red Crossbill were very good "finds" for a census list.

Data on place, time, weather and the observers who reported are given below.

BACKBONE STATE PARK (Delaware Co.): Dec. 23; 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy until 1 p.m., then clear; 5 in. snow, which fell during the preceding day; light wind, south changing to northwest; temp. 35° at start 28° at return; total foot mileage in the park, 12, and an auto ride from Winthrop to the park. Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L. Jones, F. J. Pierce. ('Bird-Lore')

COUNCIL BLUFFS (Lake Manawa and Carr Lake Wildlife Refuge in Pottawattamie County): Dec. 27; 9 a.m. to 12 m. Clear and bright with little wind; no snow; temp. 4° at start, 10° at return; about 3 miles covered. Bruce F. Stiles.

DES MOINES (Brenton's Slough, Fischer's Lake, Morningstar Farm, Beaver Creek, Charles Sing Denman Woods, Walnut Wood State Park and Waukonsa Woods): Dec. 22; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cloudy; 1½ in. snow on ground; snow and mist during day, becoming dark; cold south-east wind; temp. 26° at start, 28° at return; combined mileage, 102 by auto, 22 on foot; 14 observers in 4 groups. Frieda Troeger, Ben Ferrer, Olivia McCabe, Elizabeth Peck, Mrs. R. J. Thornburger, Mrs. H. R. Peasley, Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld, Dwight Smith, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, Jessie Morrison, Edna Rounds, Ethel Badgley, Edna Petterson, Kate LaMar. ('Bird-Lore')

DURUQUE (City, Eagle Point Park, Gen. Pike Lock and Dam, Linwood Cemetery, high school grounds, etc.): Dec. 26; 3 hrs. a.m., 3 hrs. p.m. Cloudy in a.m.; 6 in. snow; light southwest wind in a.m., rain changing to snow before noon, blizzard by mid-afternoon and wind changing to northwest; temp. 34° at start, 19° at return; total mileage, 4 afoot, 12 by auto; because of slippery roads it was impossible to get far from city; 7 observers in morning group, 3 in afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Johnson, Miss Margaret Kohlman, Miss Frances Osthoff, Miss Ival Schuster, Paul Kort, David Reed, Ethan Hemsley (Dubuque Bird Club members).

HARPER'S FERRY (to Dam No. 9, Hart Forest Reserve, Wexford, Waterville, Paint Creek, Waukon Junction): Dec. 24; 7:30 a.m. to 12 m., 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy in a.m., cloudy in p.m.; 5 in. snow; light southwest wind; temp. 15° at start, 28° at noon, 22° at return; total mileage, 11 afoot, 60 by auto. Robert Burling, Arthur J. Palas. ('Bird-Lore')

KEOSAUQUA (and vicinity, including Lacey-Keosauqua State Park): Dec. 23; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cloudy but mild; snow of previous day melting; some ice in river; light southeast wind; temp. 34° at start, 32° at return. Warren N. Keck.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

7

	Backbone State Park	Council Bluffs	Des Moines	Dubuque	Harpers Ferry	Keosauqua	Ogden	Sioux City	Tama
Mallard	5	2000	215				3		
Ruddy Duck							1		
American Merganser			3	4			1		
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1						
Cooper's Hawk		1							
Red-tailed Hawk	2		4		1	1	1		2
Hartman's Hawk		1							
Red-shouldered Hawk			1						
Broad-winged Hawk						1			
Rough-legged Hawk						1	4	1	1
Marsh Hawk			4			1	1	1	1
Prairie Falcon								1	
Sparrow Hawk			1		1			2	
Bob-white			64				39		7
Ring-necked Pheasant	1		1		1		30		1
American Coot		7							
Wilson's Snipe							1		
Mourning Dove	2	2	62						
Screech Owl			2						1
Great Horned Owl			3		1		1		
Barn Owl			3	1	2				
Long-eared Owl			1		1				
Saw-whet Owl			4						
Belted Kingfisher			1						1
Flicker	1	3	37		1	1	4		1
Pileated Woodpecker					1				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3		13	1	3	2	4		2
Red-headed Woodpecker			2		4				
Hairy Woodpecker	4		24	2	8	1	1		2
Downy Woodpecker	3	1	44	15	11	3	5		4
Horned Lark (Prairie)	39						32	60	
Blue Jay	10		57	17	73	5	5	1	
American Magpie		1							
American Crow	12	500	59	13	24	54	22	26	
Chickadee	10		195	19	41	6	30		15
Tufted Titmouse			23	5		1			5
White-breasted Nuthatch	7		57	10	22	5	10		4
Red-breasted Nuthatch					2				
Brown Creeper			17	1		3		1	
Robin			1	1		1			
Bluebird						8			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6		5		4				
Starling	19		56	4	3		14		20
English Sparrow	200		2685	50	260	100	41		
Meadowlark								4	1
Western Meadowlark							27		
Red-winged Blackbird		500	3		1				
Rusty Blackbird	1								
Bronzed Grackle				2					
Cardinal	5		147	4	168		12		12
Purple Finch	9		20		76				
Goldfinch	15		28		108		2		3
Red Crossbill					1				
Slate-colored Junco	34	3	762	35	174	100	68	40	18
Tree Sparrow	5	8	1113	12	226	100	116	25	35
Harris's Sparrow		7	16						
Song Sparrow		1	2				2		
Lapland Longspur								4000	
Number of Species	22	14	39	18	27	19	26	12	20
Number of Observers	3	1	14	8	2	1	2	2	3

Total Iowa List . . 58

OGDEN (Des Moines River bottoms 3 miles northeast of Ogden, open country surrounding Ogden, then to Beaver Creek Bayou, 6 miles southwest): Dec. 23; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1:30 to 5 p.m. Weather quite clear; 2 in. snow; southwest wind; river open; temp. 26° at start, 30° at 1 p.m., 22° at return; 38 miles by auto, 8 miles on foot. Robert Walker, Sam Hyde. ('Bird-Lore')

SIoux CITY (Hornick Bottoms, below the city): Dec. 25. Bright

and clear; light south wind; temp. 30° to 50° during trip. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Youngworth.

TAMA (Lake Cherry, Govt. forest area in Indian camps, 10 miles on highway No. 63 north, and 6 miles on highway No. 30 west): Dec. 25. Mr. and Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, Miss Bay Brice.

—F. J. P.

GENERAL NOTES

A Record of the Ferruginous Rough-leg.—On January 2, 1939, my family and I saw three Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawks, near Iowa City. They were seen a mile or two apart, a single individual each time. One arose from a fencepost unexpectedly when we were very near, and we had opportunity to see the legs feathered to the toes. We observed the light under parts and dark back with prominent rusty markings.—MRS. R. W. JOHNSON, Dubuque, Iowa.

Winter Birds near Cedar Falls.—On January 22, 1939, I observed a male Belted Kingfisher out on Island Park near the junction of Snag Creek with the Cedar River. There was a good deal of open water and he was having a grand time. On February 5, I again observed a Kingfisher up the Cedar about a mile. A little later we had quite a cold snap, and I hoped there was enough open water left for him to catch a hearty meal or two. I noticed Bronzed Grackles around Cedar Falls all winter. I also saw Meadowlarks and none seemed to be on relief.—WINIFRED GILBERT, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Winter Birds in the Spirit Lake Region.—We did not get out for a Christmas census. We made a short list late in the afternoon of January 2, 1939. This included Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Downy Woodpecker, Ring-necked Pheasant, Crow, Tree and House Sparrows, Starling and Goldfinch. On December 17, a live Golden-crowned Kinglet was brought into our office. It had flown against a store window and was stunned, but it soon recovered from its bump. Dr. Roberts took it to the edge of town and released it near a patch of trees containing some conifers. On December 25, Lawrence Messinger saw a Kingfisher five miles west of Spencer, Clay County, and a flock of 10 Mourning Doves one and one-half miles farther north. Howard Graesing saw a Kingfisher at the State fish hatchery at Orleans on December 15, 1938.—MARY PRICE ROBERTS, Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Banding Returns at Ames.—I have had reports from Bronzed Grackles and Robins banded during the years, but although I have banded hundreds of Slate-colored Juncos, I had not until recently heard from any of them. So there was mild excitement on the day after Christmas (1938) when junco "C-45443" turned up and we discovered that he had been banded here on November 5, 1937. The next day another junco went into the trap, and his band bore the number "38-59610." This band had been clamped on here in 1937, November 20. This shows that at least one flock of juncos came south along the same path used previously.

A Black-capped Chickadee has been feeding here since September—recognized because he has but one leg. He is affectionately called "Stumpy." On December 21, 1938, he showed up in the trap and we learned that his band was "C-45419." We had to turn back to November 3, 1936, to find when he was banded, and then we found a return, November 19, 1937. It is now January and he is still here. An April banded Bronzed Grackle was killed in downtown Ames in November or December.—HARRIET C. BATTELL, Ames, Iowa.

Winter Brevities.—On January 9, 1939, Meadowlarks, Mourning Doves, Robins and two flocks of ducks were seen near Fairfield.—PAUL S. JUNKIN.

During the winter the birds were decidedly on the increase at feeding places—on my own bird preserve, in Wapsipinicon State Park, and in many private yards in Anamosa. Hundreds of white pines planted in Wapsipinicon Park ten or more years ago are proving an inviting shelter for birds.—HARRIET A. CUNNINGHAM.

Be Sure of Your Winter Shrikes.—There are few, if any, records of the Migrant Shrike in Iowa during the winter months of December, January and February. The Migrant Shrike ordinarily migrates in September or early October, but it has been seen in Iowa as late as November 13 (Marshall County, by Gabrielson). It may be unwise to put down as the Northern Shrike any shrike that is seen during winter, especially during a mild winter such as we have just had. There are Iowa records of the Northern Shrike as early as October 22 (Chickasaw County, by Spiker), and as late as March 30 (Marshall County, by Gabrielson). Shrikes seen in the late fall or early spring should be studied carefully to make sure whether they are the Migrant or the Northern Shrike. The lower mandible of the Northern is a light horn color, instead of black as in the Migrant Shrike. Roberts ('Birds of Minnesota', 1932) says: "The greater size of the Northern but especially the lighter under mandible are about the only available distinguishing field marks. If near enough to see the barring of the under parts, that will identify the Northern . . ." The Northwestern Shrike is a subspecies of the Northern which occurs in Iowa. As in the case of many other subspecies, identification must be made from specimens in the hand and not in the field. The Migrant Shrike is the summer shrike in Iowa. While it is probable that the shrike seen in December, January or February is the Northern Shrike, it is well to make sure of the distinguishing marks when the bird is seen.—F. J. P.

Northwest Iowa Notes.—Each year until last year we have had one or more Flickers feeding at our feeding-station all winter. Last winter none was seen. The past winter a Flicker visited the yard regularly but did not find the feeding-station. One room of a martin house has a large opening, and the Flicker stayed there part of the time. A Robin also remained for a part of the winter. It fed in a chicken-yard across the alley from our place.

We had a number of interesting records during the summer of 1938. I saw an Indigo Bunting in Lyon County for the first time. It was near the south line of the county. One Canada Goose stayed on our farm three miles from Rock Rapids during the summer. The neighbors all knew of the bird and I do not believe it was disturbed. A pair of Green-winged Teal raised a brood of young on a small water hole on the same farm. No other ducks were known to have nested in this vicinity.

Louis Kohl, who is a biology teacher at the Rock Rapids high school, reports that a flock of six White Pelicans remained on the Rock River two miles below Rock Rapids during the summer of 1937.

While returning from Fort Dodge on February 3, 1939, I observed a Mourning Dove on the pavement in the east part of Cherokee. It was nearly dark and the bird did not fly. As other cars were following closely behind me, I did not stop to see whether the bird was injured.

Two years ago Starlings were seen only as occasional pairs, but during the past winter there were large flocks in all parts of the county. One farmer near Rock Rapids had a flock of about 100 around his yard.—O. S. THOMAS, Rock Rapids, Iowa.

Notes from Cherokee County.—Starlings have become very numerous in Cherokee County. Although first seen in 1934, there are now large flocks about the barns on farms. One boy killed 147 Starlings in one barn recently. The Magpie was unknown in Cherokee County until the drought years, and then was seen only rarely. The year 1938 was a fairly wet year and none was seen by the observer until fall, when 15 Magpies were seen in one flock the last week of November. One was seen near the same spot on December 7. Because of the late fall and open water on the streams, as well as the abundance of food, migratory birds remained longer than usual. Many more than the usual number of Cedar and Bohemian Waxwings were seen during the fall, and they remained longer than usual. This was probably because of the heavy crop of juniper seeds. On our farm along the river we had two flocks of American Crossbills for a month during October and November, 1938. A flock of 10 Cardinals was seen on December 1. Two Red-bellied Woodpeckers stayed on the river farm most of the winter. They and the other woodpeckers busily attacked the borers which infested trees injured by the drought. Among these the hickory trees were especially prominent. With the falling of the leaves in the fall, a nest count showed a remarkable increase in warbler population in the unpastured parts of the timber, where the underbrush was heavy. —N. L. STILES, Cherokee, Iowa.

Further Notes on the American Magpie in Bremer County, Iowa.—On January 10, 1939, my wife and I visited the John Jennings farm east of Janesville, Bremer County, where the pair of Magpies have been living since the winter of 1936-1937 (see the two previous articles on this pair of Magpies in 'Iowa Bird Life': September, 1937, issue, p. 34; December, 1938, issue, p. 56). We were there at noon, and although one Magpie had been observed by the owner of the farm that morning, we were unable to find it, even after a thorough search of that farm and a short visit to two adjoining farms. We saw the very large nest used by the pair of Magpies during the two years that they nested on this farm, and Mr. Jennings told us much about them.

It is little short of amazing that two individuals of a species that was never before known to nest in the State of Iowa, should come this far eastward and nest for two successive years. They lived in a state of semi-domestication. They built their huge nest in a plum tree immediately behind the hen-house, and spent a great deal of their time eating with the chickens and livestock in the nearby feeding-yards. Their calls were heard every day, and they were often seen sitting in trees beside the kitchen door. It was their egg-stealing proclivities that brought down condemnation by the owners of the farm. Any hen eggs lying on the ground about the yards were promptly slit open and the contents extracted by the Magpies. Mr. Jennings said one hen laid in a certain outside nest every day. The Magpies as well as he knew of its location. If he didn't get the egg as soon as it was laid, the Magpie would get it, and he would find an empty shell in the nest a little later. The Magpies also hunted eggs in the hen-house itself. If he did not keep a careful watch, empty shells with telltale slits in them would be found at egg-gathering time.

Mr. Jennings believed that the Magpies would have increased rapidly on his farm if he had allowed them to do so, for they were persistent nesters. Due to their continual depredations, he broke their eggs in the nest several times and let the young that were hatched be taken for pets by children, the treatment from whom, as Mrs. Dix wrote, they did not survive. But the adult birds were not discouraged, and seemed determined to nest on this farm in spite of difficulties.

Mr. Jennings told us that since late in the fall of 1938 only one Magpie had been present on his farm, and he suspected that the other bird of the pair had been shot on some farm within the two-mile circle

which inclosed their usual hunting grounds. The disappearance of the one bird will no doubt write the final chapter of the nesting of the Magpie in eastern Iowa. It will be interesting to know how long the other Magpie remains at the Jennings farm.

We were disappointed not to have seen the Magpie, but the sight of a flock of 20 wintering Mourning Doves at the Jennings farm was a compensation. An unusually mild winter up to that date, plenty of waste grain about the farm feeding-yards, and protecting groves, accounted for this large flock of doves.—FRED J. PIERCE.

Feeding Winter Birds at Vinton.—We have found much pleasure in feeding the winter birds around our home. A food shelter with one or more hopper-type detachable shelves is very convenient as the shelves may be taken in and easily cleaned if they become covered with ice or snow. A small fork in a tree limb covered with one-inch mesh chicken-wire to form a pocket makes an ideal suet holder. We also have several suet feeders made by folding together a piece of one-half-inch wire-cloth, placed on window ledges and elsewhere. These feeding places



MR. BURK'S FEEDING-STATION

afford us plenty of space and we have noted 26 birds of six species feeding at one time in harmony. The menu consists of ear corn, pumpkin seeds cut in two (I had a supply of 125 pounds), suet, and a mixture of small seeds including hemp and flax; but crushed raw peanuts form the favorite food. The feeder shown in the photo has two removable shelves with hoppers to hold seeds. The shelves are held on with hooks and screw-eyes and are easily removed.

Regular boarders at our feeding-station include five male and seven female Downy Woodpeckers, one male and two female Hairy Woodpeckers, two male and two female Red-bellied Woodpeckers, three Brown Creepers, a pair of Blue Jays, three Golden-crowned Kinglets, a pair of Cardinals, many White-breasted Nuthatches and Chickadees, and occasionally Slate-colored Juncos. One Red-bellied Woodpecker has decidedly red underparts; the others do not. During the past winter our station had two visits from a Crow and Starlings were there on several occasions. The Golden-crowned Kinglets began their visits to the station on January 3, 1939; one of the birds favored me with its



THE CEDAR RIVER AT VINTON

song on February 5. Figures of Blue Jay and Cardinals are faintly outlined in the photo. These are metal birds which on several occasions have furnished humorous moments when the real birds of these species were present.

We live near the Cedar River. There is considerable undergrowth and some timber, which attract abundant bird life, especially during migrating seasons. There are numerous ponds on the bottom land in the spring, but these disappear during summer.—WALTER L. BURK, Vinton, Iowa.

Summer Birds in Stone Park, Sioux City.—Below I am giving a complete list of the birds which I saw in Stone Park at Sioux City during the months of July and August, 1938, while I worked for the Iowa Conservation Commission as State Park Naturalist.

Stone Park has no lakes or streams within its borders. It is composed of over 900 acres of rugged bluffs and well wooded ravines. It is bordered on the west by the Big Sioux River and on the other three sides by rough pasture and farm land. During the two months in Stone Park I conducted or assisted in conducting 46 separate nature tours and on one or another visited almost every part of the area.

The list may at first appear to be indicative of the breeding birds of the area, and while that may be true of the majority of them, yet I am sure that such species as the Broad-winged Hawk, Eastern Nighthawk, Killdeer and the two ducks did not breed within its boundaries. Most of the birds were seen many times, but a few were seen only once or twice. On July 17, the Sioux City Bird Club assisted in conducting a tour, and on that occasion many members of the group were privileged to hear an Ovenbird sing, but it was not seen. The Great Horned Owl was seen only twice, although I think it was a regular resident.

Lesser Scaup Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Nighthawk, Eastern Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher,

Eastern Wood Pewee, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Wood Thrush, Bluebird, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Eastern Lark Sparrow, Eastern Field Sparrow.—WILFRED D. CRABB, Ames, Iowa.

RECENT BIRD BOOKS

THE CALIFORNIA WOODPECKER AND I, by William Emerson Ritter (University of California Press, Berkeley, Calif., 1938; cloth, pp. i-xiii+1-340, 1 colored & 8 halftone pls., 16 text figs.; price, \$3.50).

This book was written by an eminent zoologist whose desire in a particular study was to show a comparison between man and some other creature with a brain. For this comparison he chose a familiar bird in his state—the California Woodpecker. With so wide a gap existing between the two creatures compared, the task of building the structure of evidence was very great. Perhaps the bird student will be more interested in Professor Ritter's account of the behavior and life history of the California Woodpecker than in his analytical and philosophical conclusions regarding the cause behind the actions of the bird. Certainly this species is a very interesting one, while the presentation of its habits from careful personal studies is a contribution to ornithology.

The life of this bird is communistic. Several pairs of birds take part in chiseling out the nesting cavity, and in gathering food for and feeding the young. From one to five adults have been seen feeding one brood of young. A set of four or five eggs is the usual number, but as many as 17 have been found in one nest, indicating egg-laying by several females. The bird lives in "settlements," much as humans congregate in towns, each settlement seeming to restrict itself to home trees and home territory, and each having its own storage tree for acorns. The location has a distinct correlation with the supply of acorns in the vicinity. Acorns form the chief article of food, and the storing of them is a peculiar habit. The woodpecker drills holes to receive the acorn, many trees being covered with these holes and forming veritable storehouses—one large yellow pine containing an estimated 50,000 holes. The communistic habit prevails here and groups of birds work diligently to store away a supply of food to last through the year. This woodpecker has been known to place acorns, year after year, in places from which they could not possibly be retrieved and used for food; pebbles and other useless objects resembling acorns in size are sometimes stored as well. These latter habits suggest rather limited mental powers.

The author endeavors to draw a clear comparison between woodpecker and man, and takes up in detail the structural characteristics and ancestry of birds, mammals and man. Oviparous and viviparous reproductions are discussed at length. Mind, brain and conduct are the matters under consideration in a later section of the book. The relative efficiency and construction of the brains and nervous systems of men and birds are described. The functions of the various organs of the human body are compared with those in birds and mammals, members of each group having been studied with reference to adaptation to the activities involved. The final chapter reviews what the California Woodpecker can and cannot do. The author does not see a possibility of the woodpeckers changing their ways or making much improvement in centuries to come. Some of the maladaptations, such as storing pebbles instead of acorns, might be remedied, but he believes similar performances will continue as long as woodpeckers remain birds.—F. J. P.

FEATHERS AND FUR ON THE TURNPIKE, by James R. Simmons (Christopher Publishing House, Boston, 1938; cloth, pp. 1-148, 10 pls. & 3 figs.; price \$1.75).

Part One of this little book records the experiences of a man who, after becoming interested in the problem of wildlife casualties on the modern highway, decided to maintain a receiving station for specimens picked up on the roadways of New York and adjacent states. The project became a cooperative one, with about 25 persons contributing data or specimens collected on sectors of their respective highways. The complete study covered a ten-year period, 1927-1937, with a total of 3,203 specimens of wild birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians recorded. The tabulation by species and groups is interesting. The Robin heads the list of birds with 375 casualties, the English Sparrow is next with 351, and the Field Sparrow is third with 296. Of the mammals, the cottontail rabbit was first with 337 dead, and the skunk was next with 222. The numbers of both autos and wildlife on the highway at different seasons proved to be the determining factors in the mortality rate. The peak killing period was between July 15 and August 15. Reasons why birds and mammals frequent the roads are given—a quest for food in the form of insects and grain, or grit, a desire for dust baths, and so forth. The author believes that roadside posters and carefully planned educational campaigns would help to reduce the destruction of wild creatures on the roads.

Several chapters describe personal experiences with birds of various kinds. A chapter on the house cat is not very convincing. The author would have us believe that a cat "trained" by him would not catch young Robins being fed on the lawn by their parents; but this cat was allowed to have as many English Sparrows as he could get because the author considered the sparrow as undesirable. We have yet to see a cat that could (or would) distinguish between a young Robin and a sparrow. In this same cat "the killing of mice was a life-long habit and he accounted for an average of twelve per year." (!)

Part Two is devoted to conservation in its many aspects. There is special emphasis on forestry and forest problems, to which wildlife management is rather closely related. The discussion of present-day trends is both instructive and provocative of serious thought. Mr. Simmons shows that he is a true conservationist with a sane outlook upon the future. His book is an earnest effort to do good—which should commend it to many readers.—F. J. P.

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WILDFOWL FOOD PLANTS, THEIR VALUE, PROPAGATION AND MANAGEMENT, by W. L. McAtee (Collegiate Press, Inc., Ames, Iowa, 1939; cloth, pp. i-ix+1-141, 21 text cuts; price, \$1.50).

Since the North American wild ducks and geese constitute a very important natural resource, it is obvious that game managers, hunters' organizations, and conservationists should have a thorough understanding of the food of these birds. The U. S. Biological Survey many years ago began studying stomach contents to determine the relative importance of aquatic plants as food for wildfowl. Over a long period of years the Survey has been assembling data on this subject. The present book describes in a very adequate manner the food plants which are prominent in the ducks' diet.

The first chapter describes the productivity (crop output) of certain types of water areas, the food values of various aquatic plants produced, and the food preferences of a dozen species of the more common ducks. This is followed by a descriptive list of about 40 groups or families of food plants utilized by the ducks. Other chapters take up the environmental factors affecting aquatic growth, and give suggestions for planting, controlling and generally managing areas on which duck food plants are being grown. Those concerned with these matters will find the book a valuable compilation.—F. J. P.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Several of our members enjoyed interesting trips during Christmas vacation or longer trips during the winter.

Miss Esther Copp, of Cedar Rapids, with four others visited "Bird City" at Avery Island, Louisiana, where they saw Anhingas, Snowy and American Egrets, herons and geese, thousands of ducks, besides watching Mr. McIlhenny in his work of banding these birds.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rosen spent two weeks with their son, Walter, Jr., and his wife at Dadeville, Alabama, and had a fine trip through the South. Mr. Rosen and Junior took a bird census at Dadeville on December 26, but due to certain circumstances (rain), their list was smaller than that of the boys "back home" at Ogden, Iowa.

Mrs. Mary Bailey spent a part of the winter at San Diego, California. Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Trewin visited Phoenix, Arizona.

Bruce F. Stiles, lately of Sioux City, was recently appointed a State Conservation Officer and given the Council Bluffs territory. Other members serving as Conservation Officers are: James R. Harlan, Storm Lake; John A. Meyer, Allison; John C. Jago, Waterloo; James J. Murphy, Independence.

Philip A. DuMont, author of the 1933 list of the 'Birds of Iowa' and well known to most of us, was recently chosen South Dakota representative on the Advisory Board of the National Association of Audubon Societies. Members of the board serve as consultants in bird matters and as advisors on general conservation policies as they apply to the respective states. Mr. DuMont has been interested in birds for 21 years, and for the last three years has served as manager of the 21,000-acre Sand Lake Waterfowl Refuge, near Columbia, South Dakota. During this time a total of 226 species of birds have been observed on the refuge, and over 23,000 birds have been banded.

Walters Bird Note Records

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FEATHERS AND FUR ON THE TURNPIKE

PART I

A Study of Wildlife Casualties
on the Highway

PART II

A Study of the Present Trends
in Wildlife Conservation

BY

JAMES R. SIMMONS

This book deals, in non-technical style, with the present trends in wildlife conservation, and includes, as a specific study, the results of a ten year investigation of the birds and mammals we kill with our cars on the highways—how many, when, why and where.

There are several chapters on personal relations with individual members of the wildlife family, in which the reader will find new and captivating information on native wildlife species, a satisfying liveliness and humor in presentation, and a great deal of solid food for thought. In Part Two he will encounter new angles of approach to the study of conservation problems, including land planning, forestry, wildlife management, and the correlation of scientific practices. The book is attractively illustrated and also contains two sketch maps and a casualty curve graph.

Mr. Simmons edited "New York Forestry", the official publication of the Forestry Association in the Empire State from 1919 to 1929. He has been a contributor both in prose and verse to magazines dealing with nature subjects, and has lectured quite extensively before forestry and wildlife groups, civic and business groups, and schools.

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